AN ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE INSTITUTION OF A General Lunatic Asylum, IN OR NEAR THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER.

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M. DCC. XCIV.

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GLOUCESTER INFIRMARY, SEPT. 14, 1793.

At a Meeting of the Governors of the Glouceſter Infirmary, *held this day in purſuance of adverti ſements for that purpoſe, it was unanimouſly reſolved,*

THAT it is the ſenſe of this meeting, that a GENERAL HOSPITAL, for the reception of INSANE PERSONS, ſhould be eſtabliſhed;

THAT the Preſident, Vice Preſidents, and Governors of the Glouceſter Infirmary, with every well-wiſher to ſuch an inſtitution, be requeſted to ſolicit contributions for the erection of ſuch an hoſpital; and that all perſons willing to favour the deſign, be deſired to ſignify their intentions, as early as poſſible, to Meſſrs. Turner, Jeynes, and Morris, Bankers, in Glouceſter;

THAT the means of ſupporting the expences of the houſe, by particular payments from the patients admitted therein, as adopted by the York and other Hoſpitals on a ſimilar foundation, have the approbation of this meeting;

THAT the Inſtitution will be rendered leſs expenſive to the objects of the intended eſtabliſhment, as well as more beneficial to the public, in proportion to the number of patients who can be accommodated in the building propoſed to be erected;

THAT the weekly Committee of the Glouceſter Infirmary be empowered to receive every information relative to this charity; to call the next general meeting as ſoon as neceſſary; and to act, in every reſpect, as immediate circumſtances may require.

GEORGE TALBOT, Chairman.

At a Meeting of the SUBSCRIBERS *to the intended* GENERAL ASYLUM, *for the reception of* INSANE PERSONS, *held at the Infirmary in Glouceſter, the 14th day of July*, 1794,

RESOLVED,

THAT the ſcheme of an inſtitution and the deſcription of a plan for a building for a Lunatic Aſylum now read are (with the amendments) unanimouſly approved; but this Meeting is of opinion, that the ſame ſhould not be attempted to be carried into effect, until the fund, SUBSCRIBED for the purpoſe, or ACCUMULATED BY INTEREST, ſhall be equal to an eſtimate of the coſt of building, finiſhing, and furniſhing the houſe according to the deſcription, together with ſuch overplus, as, being placed at intereſt, ſhall appear ſufficient to keep the fabric in repair, and to replace injured or decayed furniture, and alſo ſuch further overplus, as ſhall provide for the unavoidable contingent expences incident to a new inſtitution;

THAT

THAT a plan or plans of a building be obtained according to the deſcription now approved, together with correct eſtimates of compleately finiſhing and furniſhing the ſame; and that the Committee, appointed on the 14th day of March laſt, be empowered to act in all things relative to the inſtitution, and particularly to give directions for and receive ſuch plans and eſtimates, and report their opinion thereon to a Meeting of Subſcribers, to be convened by public advertiſement.

IT appeared by the Treaſurer's Books, that the total ſum ſubſcribed amounted to 4118l. 18s. 11d. of which a ſum equal to 3390l. 11s. 3d. had been paid in;

RESOLVED,

THAT from eſtimates and calculations this day laid before the Meeting, it is evident that the preſent amount of the fund is inſufficient for executing the deſign, and therefore the friends of this charity are requeſted to ſolicit further benefactions;

AND alſo that an inſtitution founded on the plan propoſed would be highly beneficial to many neighbouring counties;

RESOLVED,

THAT an abſtract of the plan of the inſtitution, now agreed to, be printed, and ſent to the Sheriffs of ſuch Counties, and to ſuch other perſons within them

them, as the Committee ſhall think moſt likely to promote the deſign of the inſtitution.

It appeared that in compliance with the directions of the general meeting of the 14th day of March laſt, the treaſurers had inveſted the ſum of 650l. in the purchaſe of land; as a ſcite for the intended building, and alſo the ſum of 2700l. in the purchaſe of gaol-bonds, bearing an intereſt of 4l. 10s. per cent. per annum, and that the ſum of 40l. 11s. 3d. remained in their hands;

Resolved,

That as a conſiderable augmentation to the fund will ariſe from making an intereſt of the money ſubſcribed and adding it to the principal, ſuch benefactors as approve of, and are diſpoſed to promote this purpoſe, be requeſted to pay in their benefactions to Meſſrs. Turner, Jeynes, and Morris, at their Bank in Glouceſter, or to their correſpondents, Sir James Eſdaile and Co. London, and Meſſrs. Deane, Whitehead, and Co. Briſtol, ſo that the ſame may be veſted in ſecurities with as little delay as poſſible.

R. GLOUCESTER, Chairman.

A SCHEME of an Inſtitution and a Deſcription of a Plan for a General Lunatic Aſylum, to be built in or near the City of Glouceſter, unanimouſly approved of at a General Meeting of the Subſcribers to the Fund for carrying ſuch a deſign into execution, held at the Infirmary, at Gloceſter, on the 14th day of July, 1794.

I.

Title.

THIS Aſylum ſhall be a GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT for the reception of all perſons offered for admiſſion, and adjudged to be INSANE, according to the rules to be hereafter made to regulate the mode of admiſſion.

II.

Independent foundation.

THE eſtabliſhment ſhall be totally independent of every other charitable inſtitution.*

III.

* The total independency being determined on, the deſign bears a more direct analogy to the inſtitution at York, than to that either at Mancheſter or Liverpool—It will be neceſſary to be more circumſpect in ſecuring a certain

III.

How maintained.

THE annual expence of the houſe ſhall be defrayed (as far as may be) by the weekly payments of patients to be admitted.

IV.

THE benefits of this inſtitution to the indigent claſſes muſt be in proportion to the number of perſons of eaſy or ſuperior circumſtances, whoſe friends may be induced, according to the degree of good accommodation provided for them, to offer them as patients.

So far as deciſion can be formed from any previous calculation, this eſtabliſhment will not ſupport itſelf without ſome aſſiſtance, until the number of patients in the houſe ſhall amount to thirty,* one third of whom ſhall on an average pay 14s. per week, but it is evident that as the

a certain proviſion for the unavoidable expences of an independent houſehold, which has no reliance but on itſelf, than when as at Mancheſter and Liverpool, its infancy might be protected, or its decline ſupported by a parent inſtitution.

* See Appendix, page 23.

TOTAL

TOTAL numbers, or the PROPORTIONABLE numbers of this claſs ſhall increaſe, ſo will increaſe the power of relieving the indigent.

V.

Claſſes of patients.

PATIENTS to be admitted ſhall be conſidered as divided into three diſtinct claſſes, according to their reſpective circumſtances and ſituation.

1ſt. Indigent perſons, not dependent on pariſh relief.

2d. Indigent perſons, ſupported by the pariſhes to which they belong.

3d. Perſons in eaſy or ſuperior circumſtances.

VI.

Pay of each claſs.

AT the firſt opening of the aſylum, no patient ſhall pay leſs than 8s. per week, but it ſhall be the firſt conſideration to render indigent perſons, not receiving pariſh relief, objects of further charitable aſſiſtance. The weekly pay of patients of this claſs ſhall hereafter be reduced, in proportion to the augmentation of a fund to be created for this purpoſe.

1ſt. claſs,

Reduction fund.

THIS fund ſhall be called the REDUCTION FUND, and ſhall ariſe from the annual ſavings of the eſtabliſhment of the houſe, by means of increaſed payments of the claſs of ſuperior patients, augmented (as it may be preſumed) by the future benefactions or legacies of benevolent perſons.

VII.

2d. claſs.

AT the firſt opening of the aſylum, the payments of perſons ſupported by any pariſh rate ſhall be 8s. per week, and never exceed what ſhall be found to be the average coſt of patients to the houſe: if on experience this average coſt ſhall appear to be leſs than 8s. the payment ſhall be reduced accordingly.

VIII.

3d. claſs.

IN regard to perſons in eaſy or ſuperior circumſtances, their weekly payments ſhall be determined individually according to circumſtances, ſituation, and connections.

IX.

THE weekly payments of the indigent claſſes (namely, thoſe not exceeding 8s. per

per week) ſhall include every expence, be it incurred by Board,* Lodging, Waſhing, Medicine and Medical, or other Attendance, but it muſt be underſtood in regard to perſons in eaſy and ſuperior ſituation, that the attending Phyſician, under whoſe care any ſuch patient ſhall be admitted, may receive from ſuch patient the reaſonable emoluments of his profeſſion, to be limited by a rule hereafter to be eſtabliſhed.

X.

Private ſervants.

PATIENTS of the 3d. claſs may at the requeſt of their friends be attended by a private ſervant or peculiar attendant, paying 8s. per week for the board of ſuch ſervant or attendant; but it is neceſſary that ſuch rules ſhall be hereafter formed in this caſe, that no perſon admitted into the aſylum in this capacity ſhall gain a ſettlement by ſuch ſervice.†

* The cloathing the patients is not included in this payment, but under a rule hereafter to be adopted, the patients will be ſecured from want of cloathing from any neglect of their friends, or pariſh officers.

† The precautions adopted by other charitable foundations relative to ſettlements will of courſe be introduced into the rules.

XI.

XI.

A plan. A PLAN of a ſubſtantial and unornamented building ſhall be obtained, with an eſtimate of the coſt of compleating the ſame, together with the neceſſary furniture, and the purchaſe of ground for the ſcite of the houſe and proper yards or airing grounds; in ſuch plan proviſion ſhall be made for the accommodation of forty-two perſons at the leaſt, with due ſeparation of ſexes and claſſes, and offices ſuitable to the extent of the eſtabliſhment.

XII.

Time of commencement of the work. THIS plan ſhall be begun to be carried into execution as ſoon as the amount of the ſubſcription ſhall be equal to the eſtimate for the whole of the above building, including finiſhing and furniſhing and a ſufficient allowance for contingencies, together with an overplus to be veſted as a perpetual fund, ſufficient to keep the building in repair, and reſtore the decayed or injured furniture.*

BUT

* The neceſſity of providing ſuch a fund, if not evident from the nature of things, is ſufficiently marked in

BUT as it is impoſſible on untried ſpeculation to enſure that ſuch a number of patients ſhall at firſt be offered for reception as will provide for the neceſſary annual expences of the inſtitution, it is propoſed that ſuch part only of the whole deſign ſhall be executed as ſhall provide for thirty perſons. The remainder of the ſubſcription ſhall be veſted in ſecurities, or otherwiſe made a fund to diſcharge the expence, which muſt be the unavoidable conſequence of a new inſtitution. But when at a future period it can be aſcertained that ſuch a number of patients can be depended on, as that the inſtitution can ſupport itſelf, then and not till then the whole of the ſubſcription (ſave only the fund for ſupport of repairs and furniture)

A part only built.

The whole compleated.

in the accout of the York Aſylum by the following words—" The eſtate of the aſylum is about 2000l. " ſtock in the Three per Cents. the intereſt of which " is employed in the repair of the fabric, and in the " purchaſe of furniture, which in an eſtabliſhment of " this kind is attended with a conſiderable annual ex- " pence.—The building at York coſt 12,000l. ſub- " ſcription 14,000l. proviſion for 100 patients."

may

may ſafely be applied in compleating the original deſign.

XIII.

Fund for building, furniſhing, &c.

In order to augment the fund by the application of intereſt, and thereby to give the utmoſt effect to the purpoſes of thoſe benefactors, who may already have paid, or may hereafter pay in their benefactions, it has been very liberally propoſed by the treaſurers, and agreed to by the ſubſcribers that when, and as often as, the monies paid into their hands ſhall amount to an entire ſum of 100l. every ſuch ſum or ſums ſhall be employed in the purchaſe of one or more gaol bonds bearing an intereſt of 4l. 10s. per cent. per annum: and the intereſt of all bonds ſo purchaſed being brought to account on the day, on which it ſhall become due, ſhall be further applied in like manner.

XIV.

Government of the aſylum.

The general government of the aſylum, the truſt, and the application of all monies

nies ſubſcribed, ſhall be veſted in the body of truſtees.

XV.

Qualification of truſtees.

EVERY perſon who has contributed or ſhall hereafter contribute FIVE GUINEAS OR MORE towards the coſt of the inſtitution, ſhall be a truſtee during life, and as ſuch ſhall have a vote at all General Courts—Every contributor of TWENTY GUINEAS OR UPWARDS, whether by benefaction or by teſtamentary bequeſt, ſhall have the power of appointing by will, or by any other mode, in writing a ſucceſſor to himſelf in the truſt.

IF at any time hereafter it ſhall happen that the number of truſtees ſhall be reduced to twenty, of which number there ſhall not be one half, whoſe uſual reſidence ſhall be within ten miles of the aſylum, the remaining exiſting truſtees ſhall within three months after ſuch reduction, to be notified to them on its taking place by the apothecary or director, proceed to nominate by ballot and liſts (at which nomination the proxies of abſent truſtees may

be admitted) twenty other perſons, who, together with them, ſhall execute the functions herein directed to be performed by the truſtees of the aſylum. And this mode of renewing the truſt ſhall be adopted as often as the number ſhall be reduced to twenty as aforeſaid.

No vote until ſix months after ſubſcribing.

From and after the opening of the aſylum, no contributor ſhall be entitled to vote as a truſtee, until he or ſhe ſhall have paid his or her benefaction for the ſpace of ſix months before the time of voting.

XVI.

Houſe Committee.

THE interior regulation and œconomy of the houſe ſhall be veſted in a committee of truſtees, to be called the Guardians or Houſe Committee, who ſhall be annually appointed by the body of truſtees, by ballot and liſts, at a general court, to be held in the week of one of the aſſizes, at which all perſons reſident without the limits of the county ſhall be allowed to ſend their liſts or to ballot by proxy.—This committee ſhall conſiſt of twenty perſons, and three of them ſhall be a committee to act.

XVII.

XVII.

Committee to fix payments of 3d claſs.

IT ſhall amongſt other duties be referred to this Committee to examine into the circumſtances, connections, and ſituation of the perſons offered for admittance as patients, and after ſuch examination to fix the weekly payments according to the rules of the inſtitution, and to take bond (in manner hereafter to be directed) for the regular diſcharge of the payments ſo fixed, from the friends or pariſh officers recommending or bringing ſuch patients.

VIII.

Phyſicians.

THE care and treatment of the patients and the controul of the officers and ſervants (ſo far as regards their conduct towards the patients) ſhall veſt in an attendant phyſician, or attendant phyſicians for the time being.

XIX.

Surgeon.

A SURGEON ſhall be requeſted to give his aſſiſtance, when thought neceſſary by the phyſicians; it being underſtood, that in

regard to perſons in ſuperior ſituations, he may receive the reaſonable emoluments of his profeſſion, to be limited by a rule hereafter to be eſtabliſhed.

XX.

Apothecary or director.

THE duty of attending the patients, the general œconomy of the houſehold, and the keeping of the accounts, ſhall center in one and the ſame perſon. He ſhall be a healthy active man, who, underſtanding the buſineſs of an apothecary, ſhall be otherwiſe competent to the truſt. He ſhall be engaged in no other occupation or buſineſs, and ſhall be conſtantly reſident in the houſe.

XXI.

Houſekeeper.

THERE ſhall be one principal female ſervant to act as houſekeeper and ſuperintendant of the female wards, with power to direct the other female ſervants.

A P-

APPENDIX.

A Liſt of Servants who appear neceſſary at the firſt opening of the houſe, together with the probable ideas of their ſalaries.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Apothecary and Director, - 60 or	70	0	0			
Upper Man Keeper, - -	20	0	0			
Inferior ditto - - -	15	0	0			
Houſe Keeper and firſt Female Keeper,	15	0	0			
Aſſiſtant Attendant on the Patients, -	10	0	0			
A Cook Maid, - - -	7	0	0			
A Waſher Woman or Laundry Maid,	7	0	0			
A Porter at the Gate, - -	8	0	0			
Salaries, - -	152	0	0			
Annual Board of Apothecary, and Houſe Keeper, - -	52	0	0			
Six Servants, at 7s. per week each -	109	4	0			
Board, -	161	4	0			
	313	4	0			
To this is to be added ſo much and no more taxes, than were paid by the Land before built upon;— -	6	16	0			
	320	0	0			
1ſt. year. It is not poſſible to depend on ſuch a number of Patients, but that the *whole* Coſt of Servants, &c. will be a Loſs at the Charge of the Fund, - - -				320	0	0
In propoſal 12, an eſtabliſhed Fund for the repairs of the houſe and reſtoring broken glaſs and furniture has been preſumed on; if no ſuch fund be provided, a conſiderable annual ſum (not leſs than 40l.) muſt be added to the annual expences.						
Suppoſing 2d. year there ſhall be ten patients, viz.						
6 paying 8s. per week, - -	124	16	0			
4 paying 14s. per week, - -	145	12	0			
	270	8	0			
On an average the board of 10 patients, at 5s. each per week, amounts to -	130	0	0			
Profit on board, -	140	8	0			
Servants and Eſtabliſhment, -	320	0	0			
General Loſs 2d. year, -				180	0	0

Each

Each Patient coſts the Houſe 17s. 4d. per week.
The Portion of the Houſe Eſtabliſhment for each patient is 32l. per ann.
Suppoſing 3d. year, 20 patients, viz.

12 at 8s.		249 12 0	
8 at 16s.		332 16 0	
Annual Receipt,		582 8 0	
Annual Board of 20 Patients, at 5s.		260 0 0	
Profit,		322 8 0	
	£. s. d.		
Original Eſtabliſhment,	320 0 0		
An additional Servant, of each Sex,	61 8 0		
		381 8 0	
General Loſs 3d year			59 0 0
In three years Loſs,			559 0 0

Each Patient coſts 12s. 4d. per week.
Portion of the Houſe 16l. per ann.
After 4th. year ſuppoſe 24 Patients be admitted, viz.

16 at 8s.		332 16 0	
8 at 16s.		332 16 0	
Profit,		665 12 0	
Board of 24 at 5s.		312 0 0	
		353 12 0	
Servants,		381 10 0	
General Loſs 4th year			28 0 0
In four years Loſs,			587 0 0

The Annual Share of Houſehold is 15l. 17s. 6d.
Weekly total 11s. 1d.
Suppoſe 25 Patients, viz.

16 at 8s.		332 16 0	
9 at 16s.		373 12 0	
		706 8 0	
Board 25 at 5s.		325 0 0	
		381 8 0	
Servants,		381 10 0	
			Ballanced.

Houſe,

House, 15l. 4s. 9d. per ann.
Weekly Total, 10s. 10d.
Suppose 26 Patients, viz.

18 at 8s.	374 8 0		
8 at 16s.	332 16 0		
	707 4 0		
Board of 26 at 5s.	338 0 0		
Profit,	369 4 0		
Servants,	381 10 0		
Loss,		12 0	•

House, 14l. 13s. per ann.
Weely total, 10s. 7d.
Suppose 27 Patients, viz.

18 at 8s.	374 8 0		
9 at 16s.	374 0 0		
	748 8 0		
Board of 27 at 5s.	351 0 0		
	397 8 0		
Servants,	381 4 0		

House, 14l. 2s. 2d. per ann.
Weekly total, 10s. 5d.

Profit,		16 0	•

Suppose 30 Patients, viz.

20 at 8s.	416 0 0		
10 at 14s.	364 0 0		
	780 0 0		
Board,	390 0 0		
	390 0 0		
Servants,	381 0 0		

House Portion, per ann. 12l. 14s.
Weekly total, 9s. 10d.

Profit,		9 0	•

Suppose 42 Patients, viz.

28 at 8s.	582 8 0		
14 at 14s.	509 12 0		
	1092 0 0		
Board of 42 at 5s.	546 0 0		
Remains,	546 0 0		
Servants as before,	381 0 0		
	165 0 0		
To be one Servant to each Ward, besides the Superintendant, add one other Woman, and one Man as before,	61 0 0		
Profits,		104 0	•

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Suppoſe 42 Patients the year after the former, viz.

14 at 5s.			182	0	0
14 at 8s.			291	4	0
12 at 14s.			436	6	0
2 at 16s.			83	4	0
			993	0	0
Board of 42 perſons at 5s.			546	0	0
Remains,			447	0	0
Servants and Coſts,			442	0	0
Profit,					5 0 0

Houſe Portion, per ann. 10l. 10s. 5d.
Weekly total, 9s.
Suppoſe 48 Patients, viz.

16 at 5s.			208	0	0
16 at 7s.			291	4	0
12 at 14s.			436	6	0
4 at 16s.			166	8	0
			1101	18	0
Board of 48 at 5s. per week,			624	0	0
Remains,			477	18	0
Eſtabliſhment,	442	0 0			
Salary of Apothecary increaſed 30l.	30	0 0			
			472	0	0
Profit,					5 18 0

Houſe Portion, per ann. 9l. 16s. 8d.
Weekly total, 8s. 8d.
Suppoſe 60 Patients, viz.

10 at 4s.			104	0	0
6 at 5s.			78	0	0
4 at 6s.			62	8	0
20 at 7s.			364	0	0
4 at 10s.			104	0	0
4 at 12s.			124	16	0
8 at 14s.			291	4	0
4 at 16s.			166	8	0
			1294	16	0
Board of 60 at 5s. per week			780	0	0
Remains,			514	16	0
Eſtabliſhment,			472	0	0
Profit,					42 16 0

Houſe Portion, per ann. 7l. 17s. 4d.
Weekly total, 7s. 8½d.